

Introduced by Senator De León
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cedillo and Mendoza)

February 2, 2012

An act to add Section 51221.6 to the Education Code, relating to school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 993, as introduced, De León. School curriculum: social sciences: Bracero program.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include instruction in social sciences, and requires that instruction to provide a foundation for understanding the history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America.

This bill would authorize instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include instruction on the Bracero program, and would express the encouragement of the Legislature for that instruction to include a component drawn from personal testimony, as provided. The bill would specify that this instruction shall be carried out in a manner that does not result in new duties or programs being imposed on school districts.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51221.6 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

1 51221.6. (a) Instruction in the area of social sciences, as
2 required pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51220, may include
3 instruction on the Bracero program.

4 (b) The Legislature encourages the instruction described in
5 subdivision (a) to include, but not be limited to, a component drawn
6 from personal testimony, especially in the form of oral or video
7 histories of individuals who were involved with the Bracero
8 program. The oral histories used as part of the instruction regarding
9 the Bracero program are encouraged to do all of the following:

10 (1) Exemplify the economic and cultural effects of the Bracero
11 program, including, but not limited to, its effects on the railroad
12 system, agriculture, and immigration in the United States of
13 America.

14 (2) Contain the views and comments of their subjects regarding
15 the reasons for their participation in the Bracero program and their
16 immigrant story, generally.

17 (c) This section shall be carried out in a manner that does not
18 result in new duties or programs being imposed on the school
19 district. In that regard, the Legislature finds and declares that this
20 section does not mandate costs to local agencies or school districts
21 and that materials used to comply with this section shall be part
22 of normal curriculum materials purchased by school districts in
23 their normal course of business and purchasing cycles.